

State Government

Alabama has numerous student financial aid programs administered by state agencies, especially the Alabama Commission on Higher Education (ACHE). The following pages provide information on many of the state-administered programs, including mailing addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses and websites.

State Government

Federal Government

Public Universities

**Private Colleges
and Universities**

**Public
Two-Year Colleges**

Trade Schools

**Companies and
Organizations**

Index

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Alabama Student Loan Program



Contact: Alabama Student Loan Program—KHEAA, 100 North Union Street, Suite 308, Montgomery, AL 36104, phone (800) 721-9720, fax (334) 265-9750, website www.alstudentaid.com

Loans

Federal PLUS Loan (Federal Family Education Loan Program [FFELP])

Eligibility: Must be the parent or step-parent of a dependent student as determined by the school; be a citizen, permanent resident or eligible noncitizen of the United States and verify Social Security number and immigration status; not be in default or owe a refund on any educational grant or loan; and not have an adverse credit history under federal regulations. The student must be determined by the school to be a dependent student; be a citizen, permanent resident or eligible noncitizen of the United States; be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at least half-time in an eligible degree or certificate program at an eligible school; be in good standing and making satisfactory academic progress if currently enrolled; not be attending elementary or secondary school; and not be in default or owe a refund on any educational grant or loan unless satisfactory arrangements have been made toward repayment.

Repayment: Repayment begins within 60 days after the loan is fully disbursed. Payments on principal may be deferred under certain circumstances. Interest begins to accrue upon disbursement and must be paid monthly or quarterly or be added to the principal. PLUS Loans have a variable interest rate capped at 9%.

Award: The annual loan amount may not exceed the student's estimated cost of attendance minus any other financial aid the student receives. There is no limit on the total amount a parent can borrow during a student's college years.

Number: Unlimited

Deadline: Send a completed application to your lender as soon as possible.

Federal Stafford Loan (FFELP)

Eligibility: Must be an undergraduate, graduate or professional student; be a citizen, permanent resident or eligible noncitizen of the United States; be enrolled or accepted for enrollment at least half-time in an eligible degree or certificate program at an eligible school; have a high school diploma or its equivalent; be in good standing and making satisfactory academic progress if currently enrolled; and not be in default or owe a refund on any federal education grant or loan unless arrangements have been made to repay the debt.

Students must demonstrate financial need to qualify for a *subsidized* loan. The federal government pays the interest while the student is in school, during authorized deferment periods, and for six months after the student ceases to be enrolled at least half-time. The borrower begins paying the interest and principal when the loan enters repayment.

Students do not have to demonstrate financial need to qualify for an *unsubsidized* loan. Unlike a subsidized loan, the borrower must begin paying the interest immediately. Interest on an unsubsidized loan may be paid monthly or quarterly or added to the principal balance.

Financial need is determined for the subsidized loan before eligibility is determined for the unsubsidized loan.

The Stafford Loan amount for an academic period cannot exceed the student's cost of attendance (as determined by the school) minus the student's estimated financial assistance and, if the loan is subsidized, expected family contribution. Schools will determine the student's eligibility.

Repayment: Several repayment plans are available. Six months after the borrower leaves school or drops below half-time status, repayment begins on a subsidized loan. Repayment on an unsubsidized loan begins immediately upon disbursement but may be delayed until 6 months after the borrower leaves school

or drops below half-time status; however, interest begins to accrue upon disbursement. The interest rate changes each year but will not be higher than 8.25%.

Award: A borrower may receive a subsidized loan, an unsubsidized loan, or both for an academic period. However, the total amount received may not exceed the loan limits for each academic year based on the borrower's dependency status and grade level and the length of the program of study in which the borrower is enrolled. The current loan limits are:

| Grade Level | Dependent Status | Independent Status |
|--|------------------|--------------------|
| First Year | \$2,625 | \$6,625 |
| Second Year | \$3,500 | \$7,500 |
| Each Remaining Year of Undergraduate Study | \$5,500 | \$10,500 |
| Each Year of Graduate/Professional Study | \$8,500 | \$18,500 |

Number: Unlimited

Deadline: The financial aid office at the school the student plans to attend must certify the loan application on behalf of the student at the earliest opportunity before or during the student's enrollment period.

Federal Consolidation Loan (FFELP)

Eligibility: Must be in grace period or repayment status on all loans being consolidated, have made satisfactory repayment arrangements with the holder of each loan (if a delinquent or defaulted borrower) or agree to repay the consolidating lender under an income-sensitive repayment plan, not be subject to a judgment secured through litigation or wage garnishment unless judgment has been vacated or wage garnishment lifted, not have a Consolidation Loan application pending with another lender and consolidate with the current lender unless the borrower has multiple lenders and/or his or her lender does not offer a Consolidation Loan with income-sensitive repayment plan. If a borrower and spouse both want to consolidate their loans into one Consolidation Loan, they must agree

to be jointly and individually responsible for repayment, without regard to the amount each owes and any change in marital status.

The following loans can be consolidated: Federal Family Education Loans (subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford, formerly Guaranteed Student Loans; PLUS; Supplemental Loans for Students [SLS], formerly Auxiliary Loans to Assist Students [ALAS]; and Consolidation); Federal Insured Student Loans (FISL); Federal Perkins Loans, formerly National Direct/Defense Student Loans; Health Education Assistance Loans (HEAL); Health Professions Student Loans (HPSL), including Loans for Disadvantaged Students (LDS); Federal Nursing Student Loans; and Federal Direct Loans (subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford, PLUS and Consolidation). New loans may be added if the request is received by the consolidation lender within 180 days of the date the Consolidation Loan is made.

Repayment: The repayment period depends on the amount of the Consolidation Loan. Other student loans are considered when calculating the repayment period. The consolidation lender must offer the choice of a graduated or income-sensitive repayment schedule. If none of the holders of the loans can provide an income-sensitive repayment schedule, the borrower may obtain a Consolidation Loan from another lender. Except for the portion of the Consolidation Loan attributable to HEAL, the interest rate is a fixed rate of 8.25% or the weighted average of the interest rates on the loans being consolidated, rounded to the next higher 1/8 of 1%, whichever is less.

The interest rate on the HEAL part of the loan (if applicable) varies and is set each July 1. The variable rate for each 12-month period is equal to the average of the bond equivalent rate of the 91-day Treasury bills auctioned for the quarter ending June 30, plus 3%. The 8.25% interest rate cap does not apply.

Contact: Your lender or KHEAA, toll free (800) 928-8926, Option #3

Alabama Commission on Higher Education

Contact: Unless otherwise noted, Alabama Commission on Higher Education, P.O. Box 302000, Montgomery, AL 36130-2000, phone (334) 242-2273, website www.ache.state.al.us

Grants

Alabama Student Assistance Program Grant

Eligibility: Must be a financially needy Alabama undergraduate resident attending an eligible school at least half-time.

Award: \$300–\$2,500

Alabama Student Grant

Eligibility: Must be an Alabama undergraduate resident enrolled at least half-time and attending an eligible independent Alabama college or university, which includes Birmingham-Southern College, Concordia College, Faulkner University, Huntingdon College, Judson College, Miles College, Oakwood College, Samford University, Southeastern Bible College, Southern Christian College, Spring Hill College, Stillman College and the University of Mobile. Not based on need.

Award: Up to \$1,200

Contact: Financial aid office of the school you plan to attend

Scholarships

Junior and Community College Athletic Scholarship

Eligibility: Must be a full-time student and participate in a designated sport or activity. Based on athletic ability as determined by tryout.

Award: Up to tuition and books

Number: Varies by sport

Contact: Coach, athletic director or financial aid office at any public junior or community college

Junior and Community College Performing Arts Scholarship

Eligibility: Must be a full-time student. Based on ability as determined by audition.

Award: Up to in-state tuition

Number: Varies

Contact: Financial aid office at any public junior or community college

Senior Adult Scholarship

Eligibility: Must be at least 60 years old, meet admissions requirements, and attend a two-year public college.

Award: Tuition

Number: Varies

Contact: Financial aid office at any public 2-year college

Two-Year College Academic Scholarship

Eligibility: Must be accepted for enrollment at a public 2-year college and demonstrate academic merit as determined by the school's scholarship committee. Not based on need.

Award: Up to in-state tuition and books; renewable

Number: Varies

Contact: Financial aid office at any public 2-year college

Other

Police Officer's and Firefighter's Survivor's Educational Assistance

Eligibility: Must be the dependent or spouse of a police officer or firefighter killed or permanently and totally disabled in the line of duty in Alabama and be enrolled in an undergraduate program at an Alabama public college. Other special eligibility requirements may apply.

Award: Tuition, fees, books and supplies

Alabama Department of Economics and Community Affairs

Contact: Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs, (334) 749-5704 or America's Service Locator at www.servicelocator.org

Training/Employment Services Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

Eligibility: Must be 18 years or older to access services from a number of different programs through 1 of 3 career centers: the Jefferson County Commission, the Mobile County Commission, and the Alabama Workforce Investment Area, all of which administer these federal programs.

Award: Youths 14–21 can access a variety of education and employment services as they prepare for the workforce. To receive services, youth must be low-income and have at least one barrier to employment.

Alabama Department of Education



Contact: Alabama Department of Education, P.O. Box 302101, Montgomery, AL 36130-2101, phone (334) 242-9935, website www.alsde.edu

Scholarships

Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship

Eligibility: Must be a senior at an Alabama public or nonpublic high school nominated by the school guidance counselor. Based on ACT or SAT score and GPA.

Award: \$1,500; renewable for up to 4 years

Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services



Contact: See contact information under each program.

Scholarships

Alabama Scholarship for Dependents of Blind Parents

Eligibility: Must be an Alabama resident from a family in which the head of the family is blind and whose family income is insufficient to pay for attendance at an Alabama public college. Must apply within 2 years of high school graduation.

Award: Textbooks

Contact: Debbie Culver, Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, 2129 East South Boulevard, Montgomery, AL 36116-2455, phone (800) 441-7607, (334) 613-2248 or (256) 362-0638, fax (334) 613-3444

Other

Vocational Rehabilitation

Eligibility: Must be an Alabama resident, have applied for a Federal Pell Grant and have exhausted other sources of aid. Based on disability creating an impediment to employment.

Award: Varies

Number: Varies

Deadline: Early spring

Contact: Local Vocational Rehabilitation office or Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services, 2127 East South Boulevard, Montgomery, AL 36116-2455, phone (800) 441-7578 or (334) 288-0220, fax (334) 281-1388, website www.rehab.state.al.us

Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs



Contact: County veterans service officer or Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs, P.O. Box 1509, Montgomery, AL 36102-1509, phone (334) 242-5077, website www.va.state.al.us

Scholarships

Alabama GI Dependents' Educational Benefit

Eligibility: Must be the child or spouse of an eligible Alabama veteran, attend an Alabama public college, begin college before reaching age 26 and be an undergraduate or graduate student.

Award: Tuition, required textbooks and laboratory fees.

Alabama Indian Affairs Commission

Contact: Alabama Indian Affairs Commission, 770 South McDonough Street, Montgomery, AL 36104, phone (334) 242-2831 or (800) 436-8261 (Alabama only), fax (334) 240-3408, website www.aiac.state.al.us

Scholarships

Alabama Indian Affairs Commission Scholarship

Eligibility: Must have a tribal roll card in a state or federally recognized tribe, be a resident of Alabama, attend a school in Alabama unless the program is not offered in Alabama and have a letter of acceptance from the school of choice.

Award: Varies

Number: Varies

Alabama National Guard

Contact: Local National Guard unit or the State Area Command Headquarters, Alabama Army National Guard, P.O. Box 3711, Montgomery, AL 36109-0711, phone (334) 271-7200, website <http://alguard.state.al.us>

Other

Alabama National Guard Educational Assistance

Eligibility: Must be an active member in good standing with a federally recognized unit of the Alabama National Guard, be an Alabama resident and attend an Alabama college or university. May also receive federal veterans' benefits but must show a cost less aid amount of at least \$25.

Award: Tuition, fees, books and supplies up to \$1,000 per year (\$500 per term)

Number: Limited

Office, Alabama College Savings Program, 100 North Union Street, Suite 660, Montgomery, AL 36130, phone (866) 529-ACCT

Prepaid Affordable College Tuition

Eligibility: Offers for sale a contract to prepay 4 years of future college tuition. Child must be in ninth grade or younger at time of purchase. Cost based on age of child. Lump-sum or monthly payment plans available.

Contact: Alabama State Treasurer's Office, PACT Program, 100 North Union Street, Suite 660, Montgomery, AL 36130-2530, phone (334) 242-7514 or (800) 252-7228

Alabama State Treasury



Contact: See contact information under each program.

Other

Alabama Higher Education 529 Fund

Eligibility: Lets families save for a child's college education. Funds can be used for many college expenses, including tuition, fees, supplies, room and board, books and other required equipment. Different investment options available. Minimum investment of \$250, with \$25 increments thereafter. Maximum amount balance of \$300,000.

Contact: Alabama State Treasurer's